

Bridging The Gap – The Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (A-RIDE) Program



International Association of Chiefs of Police
Impaired Driving Programs Regional Training Coordinator

A-RIDE Training Program

- ✓ Intended to “bridge the gap” between Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) and Drug Recognition Expert (DRE)
- ✓ Provides awareness to law enforcement personnel and other criminal justice professionals in the area of drug impairment in the context of traffic safety

Three Levels of Impaired Driving Training

- SFST – “The Foundation”
- A-RIDE – “Intermediate Level”
- DRE – “Advanced Level”

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A-RIDE Training Goals

A-RIDE trains police officers to:

- ✓ Observe
- ✓ Identify
- ✓ Articulate

the signs of impairment related to drugs, alcohol or a combination of both in order to reduce impaired driving incidents, and

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Training Goals

Train other criminal justice professionals (prosecutors, toxicologists, parole and probation, etc.) to understand the signs of impairment related to drugs, alcohol, or a combination of both.

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A-RIDE Training

A-RIDE is not a substitute for DRE and will not qualify or certify someone as a Drug Recognition Expert (DRE)

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A-RIDE Pre-Requisite

- ✓ Officers must have successfully attended IACP/NHTSA approved SFST training

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Essential Foundations of the Curriculum Development

- Strong support and direction from NHTSA
- Multi-disciplinary curriculum advisory panel
 - ✓ DREs
 - ✓ IACP DRE Technical Advisory Panel
 - ✓ POST (Peace Officers Standards & Training)

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Key Actions During the Development Process

- Periodic updates to ensure consistency and accuracy
- Detailed comparison of A-RIDE to the DEC Program Pre-School course materials

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A-RIDE Training Overview

- ✓ Two-day course (16 hours)
- ✓ Eight total training sessions
- ✓ Two of the major learning objectives:
 - SFST Refresher/Testing
 - Familiarization with DRE

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A-RIDE Curriculum

- Session 1: Introduction and Overview of Drugs and Highway Safety
 - Includes DRE information

- Session 2: SFST Update and Review
 - Includes detailed review of the SFST's including the foundational studies and recent validation studies

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A-RIDE Curriculum

- Session 3 – SFST Proficiency
 - Review of SFST battery

 - Participant given IACP/NHTSA SFST Proficiency (Max of two attempts)

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A-RIDE Curriculum

- Session 4: Drugs in the Human Body
 - Deals with physiology of the human body and how driving behavior is affected by the use of drugs
- Session 5: Observation of the Eyes and Other Tests for Impairment
 - Involves discussion of the observation of eyes and other sobriety testing techniques

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A-RIDE Curriculum

- Session 6: Seven Drug Categories
 - Detailed description of the seven drug categories and their effects
- Session 7: Effects of Drug Combinations
 - Covers possible combinations of drugs that are commonly encountered by law enforcement

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A-RIDE Curriculum

- Session 8: Pre and Post Arrest Procedures
 - Discusses Pre and Post arrest procedures
 - Discusses how to prepare for the prosecution of a DUID suspect
 - Includes written final exam with eight written drug category scenarios

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A-RIDE Pilot Study

How Effective is the Training?

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Pilot Study Goals

- ✓ Improve officer identification and assessment of the impaired driver
- ✓ Address the gap between SFST and DEC Program training
- ✓ Improve utilization of DREs in states that have the DEC Program in place
- ✓ Identify and prepare future DREs

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Pilot Study Goals - Continued

- ✓ Provide an advanced, two-day course to assist officers in identifying impaired drivers
- ✓ Provide tools to assess drivers suspected of alcohol and/or drug impairment
- ✓ Integrate law enforcement and prosecutors in the same learning environment

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A-RIDE Pilot Courses

Four State Pilot Study -
Deployment and Evaluation

Connecticut
Kentucky
Washington
West Virginia

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A-RIDE Pilot States

States represented one of the following:

- ✓ Effective DEC Program State
(Washington)
- ✓ New DEC Program State (Kentucky)
- ✓ Non-DEC Program States (Connecticut
and West Virginia)

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Pilot State Responsibilities

- ✓ Designate a coordinator to facilitate the training and evaluation process
- ✓ Ensure a minimum of 30 SFST trained police officers attended the course and submitted arrest data

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Pilot Training Participation

| State | # of Students | % Law Enforcement |
|---------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Kentucky | 43 | 100% |
| Washington | 77 | 78% |
| Connecticut | 56 | 100% |
| West Virginia | 29 | 93% |

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Officer Demographics

| | Local Police | State Police |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------|
| LE Experience | 8 | 9 |
| Officers | 115 | 32 |
| Average DWI/Month* | 5 | 10 |
| Total DUID Arrests* | 21 | 39 |
| DWI Trials* | 12 | 17 |
| DUID Trials* | 3 | 16 |

Data represents averages / *Based on those participants who had at least one occurrence in the category

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Training Feedback

- ✓ Excellent training
- ✓ Something officers will be able to employ in the field at roadside
- ✓ Great benefit to combine law enforcement and prosecution training together

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Analysis of Arrest Statistics

- ✓ Primary interest – DWI arrests
- ✓ Arrest statistics: Post-training vs. Pre-training
- ✓ Self-reported data
- ✓ 53% return rate

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A-RIDE Impact - Arrests

General Results

- ✓ Added different perspective to DWI investigations
- ✓ More attentive to the condition of the eyes during personal contact phase of the traffic stop
- ✓ More awareness of potential drug involvement
- ✓ Public intoxication arrests - Increased approximately 22%

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A-RIDE Impact - Arrests

Driving While Intoxicated

✓ DWI Arrests (Alcohol Only)

- Increase of 17%

✓ DUID Arrests (Drugs Only)

- Increase of 176%
- State and local agencies both experienced increases

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A-RIDE Impact - Arrests

Drug Paraphernalia

✓ Drug Possession with DWI/DUID

- Increased 61%
- More than 175 additional arrests
- 36% increase in drug possession arrests

✓ Drug Paraphernalia with DWI/DUID

- Increased 291%
- Almost 100 additional arrests
- 61% increase in possession of drug paraphernalia

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What the Officers Reported

"This class made me more aware of the different types of drugs and how they effect the body. Before I probably would not have paid attention to pin-point pupils in a very low light area of the parking lot . Thanks for providing this class to us."

West Virginia Officer

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What the Officers Reported

"One stop. One DUI . Two drug arrests. What a great tool your class has already become for me. This could really become quite addicting. Thanks again."

Pennsylvania Officer

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Conclusions and Recommendations

- ✓ Implement ARIDE in all states
- ✓ Review all impaired driving training curriculums to ensure consistency
- ✓ Develop better methodology for tracking curriculum revisions
- ✓ Address issues related to SFST performance
 - SFST proficiency
 - General understanding of the process
 - Procedural knowledge

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What's Next?

- ✓ Complete the final NHTSA review
- ✓ Develop a "marketing" announcement to explain and promote the course
- ✓ Release training to the states
- ✓ Will be coordinated by the State DEC Program Coordinator

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